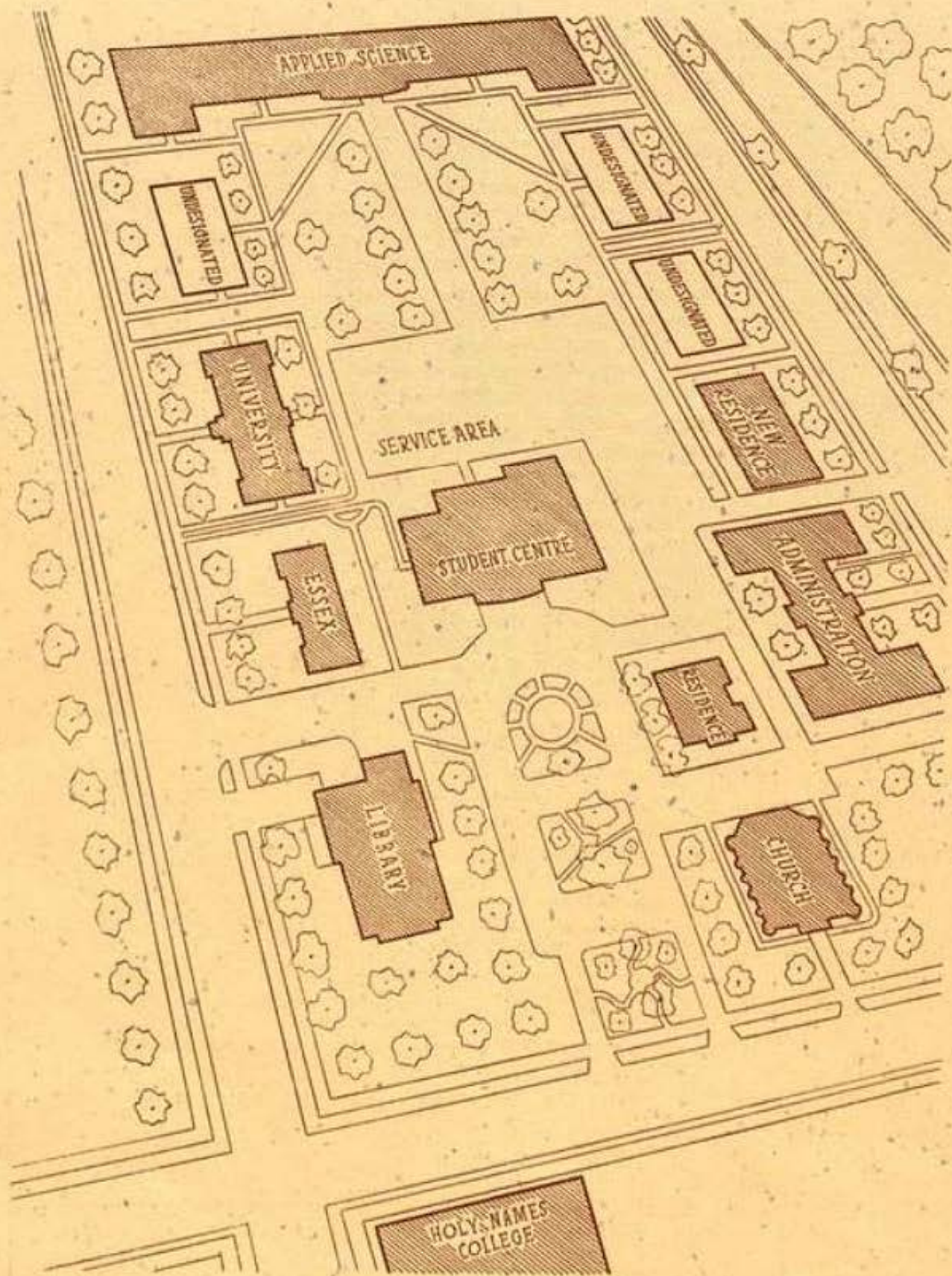
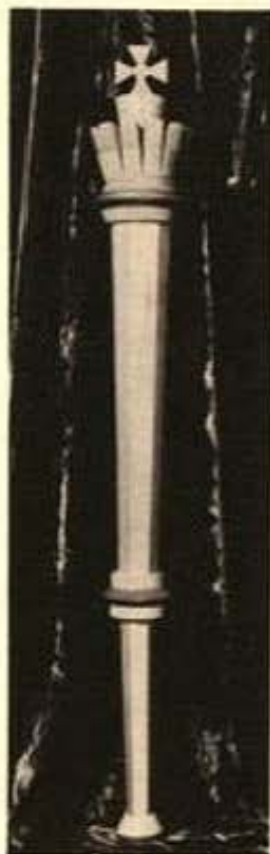


A
NEW
LIBRARY







BEFORE ARCHITECTS' SKETCHES, floor diagrams and blueprints, the new University Library of Assumption University of Windsor was an idea. Its concept is expressed on the following page by Very Rev. E. C. LeBel, C.S.B., vice chancellor and president. The transformation of this idea into bricks, steel, glass, marble, wood and their adhesives was the product of many minds working earnestly together during many days and nights.

It took three years to plan this Library. A committee, stimulated by the zeal and professional experience of Mrs. Eleanor Barteaux Hoddow, Chief Librarian, visited 26 modern libraries throughout North America. Their constant aim was to seek the best in functional design and simple beauty. It had to be a structure which would meet both immediate and future needs of the University and of the community.

In interpreting these plans in masonry, flooring, shelving, windows and vistas, the architects, James C. Pennington and William J. Carter of Windsor, and the contractors, the Woodall Construction Company, have endeavoured to give Greater Windsor another building of utility and beauty of which the community can be proud.

The cost of construction has been borne by Essex College, non-denominational affiliate of the University, with a grant from the Province of Ontario. The land and furnishings have been made available by the Basilian Fathers and the donors to the 1956 Assumption University Building Fund.

Every shaft of light or shadow from this building which adds beauty to this campus, and every new idea which its cherished books and periodicals light in the minds of teachers and students will be tokens of the gratitude which Assumption University extends to its immediate and distant community.

TEACH ME GOODNESS
DISCIPLINE AND KNOWLEDGE

WITH ITS NEW LIBRARY as the fountainhead of knowledge, Assumption University of Windsor looks forward to generations of service to communities on both sides of the international border.

One vital need in providing this service is the retention and acquisition of a learned, scholarly faculty, imbued with the inspiration to stimulate students in a devoted search for the knowledge of truth, the discipline of judgment and the habits of virtue. All of the present teaching faculty of clergy and laymen, which has been doubled within the last four years, have degrees from nationally recognized universities, and more than half hold doctorates.

A second urgent need is the provision within the next decade of buildings, technical equipment, residences and other facilities required to accommodate at least twice, and perhaps three times, the present number of students.

These physical needs, and the operating costs of the university over the next eight years, will require more than twenty-five million dollars. Tuition and board fees, government grants and the contributed services of the Community of St. Basil are expected to meet nineteen million dollars of this expenditure.

For the balance, Assumption University of Windsor seeks the support of its alumni and alumnae, educational foundations, corporations and the friends of Assumption near and far whose generosity through the years has made possible a century of educational service.

In meeting future needs, the Board of Governors, the Board of Regents and the Senate of Assumption University, together with the boards of affiliated colleges, are confident that they will be sustained in this great task by the spirit of cooperative service which has already been engendered by an affiliation unique in Western culture.



THE LEARNED SAM JOHNSON, who had drunk deep of the "Pierian Spring," stood in reverent awe when confronted by the wisdom stored in a good library. He saw before him "Alps upon Alps" of learning which he would never have time to scale. It is no wonder he felt humble — as all wise men should.

Even if we agree with Mark Hopkins that the essential component of a University is a professor at one end of a log and a student at the other, nevertheless there must be, behind the professor and in front of the student, a library, housing the best that has been thought and written from the dawn of history until our own day.

Directed by the professor, the student learns to find in the library information and data relating to an assigned topic. After fulfilling various assignments, he has learned to abstract what great minds have written in all fields from anthropology to zoology.

Equipped with this growing information, he tests his judgment in debate with staff and fellow students. The interplay of mind upon mind is vital for mental growth. Not only his formal studies in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences, but his informal discussions with professors and students, who pursue courses different from his own, mould and sharpen his mind so that it becomes able to cope with problems in almost any human field.

In this program of mental development, the library is vitally necessary. That is why Assumption University rejoices today in the opening of this splendid building. We are by no means content with the amount of wisdom of the past we have gathered; we have but 60,000 volumes. In the years to come we have room for a selective collection of 350,000 volumes.

God grant that this University Library, dedicated to aid in the cultivation of the intellect and the teaching of discipline, goodness and knowledge, may be a means of developing wise men. In the precarious days which lie ahead may they make the most of their talents, their calling, their cultural opportunities and responsibilities.

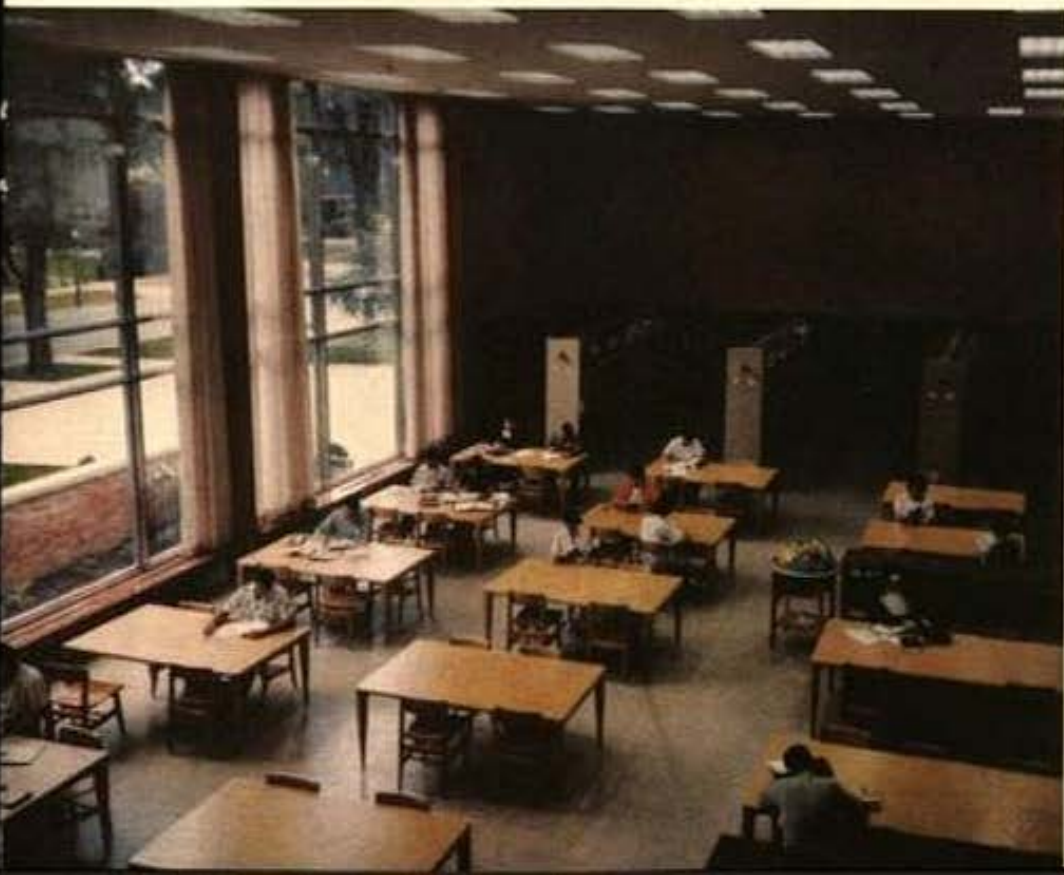
Sept. 11, 1958

S. C. LeBanc



Library

A CAMPUS at the foot of Ambassador Bridge, which links Canada and the U.S. across the Detroit River, has made Assumption for more than 100 years a focal point for international and Christian culture. As new buildings fill the playing fields, sports activities will move to a 25-acre site south of the bridge exit.



FOR THIS HISTORIC site, a new library was conceived and designed to match modern concepts of sculptured beauty and functional efficiency with vistas of light and space conducive to academic study and reflection. Glass doors open to a two-storey reception and central desk area (above). Mahogany panels and Italian marble shed warmth on stainless steel and glass dividing walls and steel shelves. Interior and exterior light, combined again with spacious height, illuminate the reference and periodical area (left).

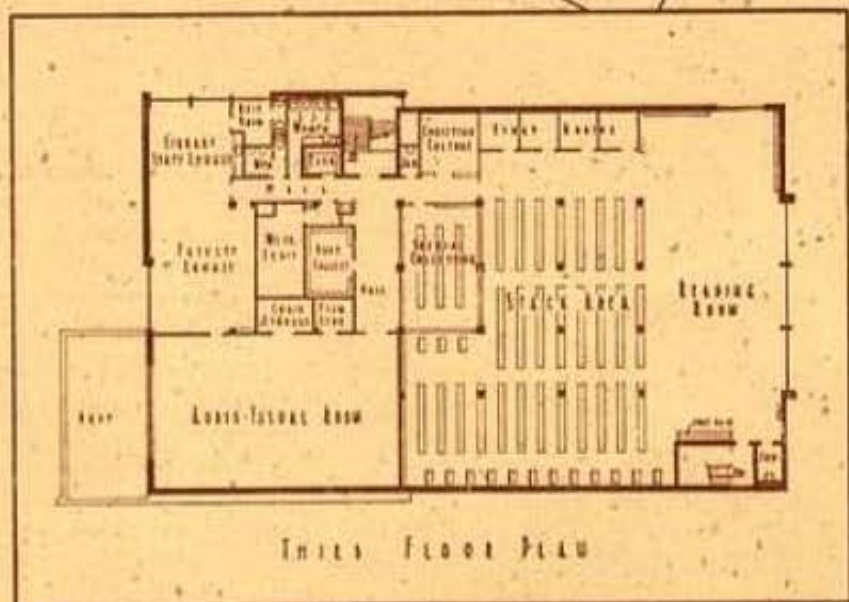
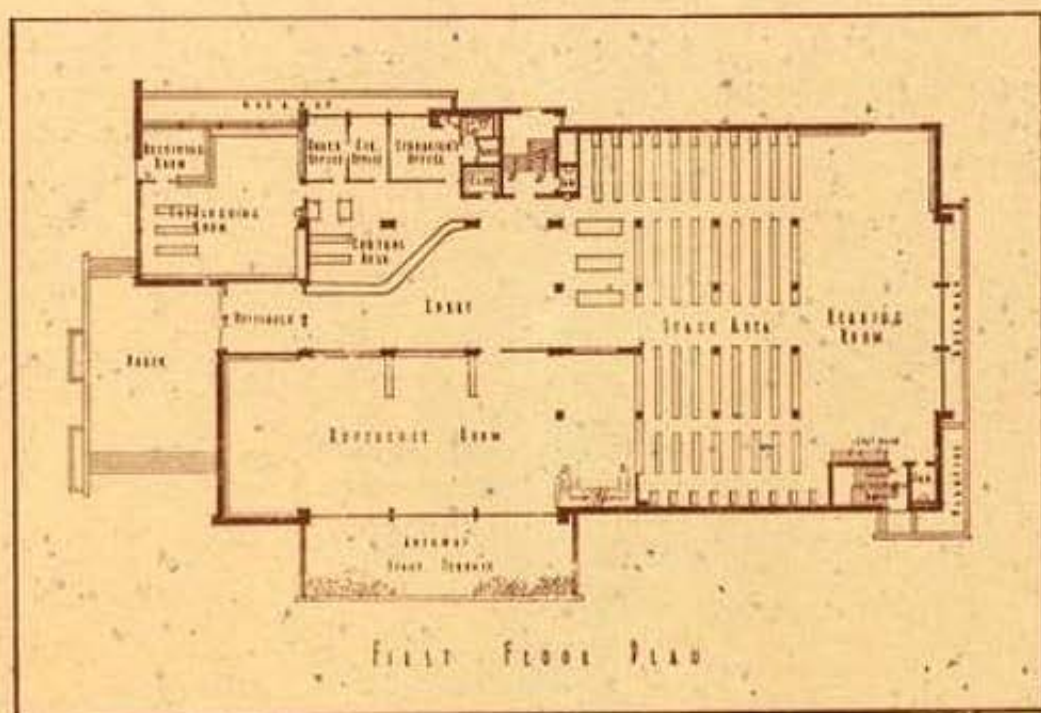




ALL BOOKS are checked out at the central desk (above). Shelving is concentrated in the centre of the building leaving other areas on all four floors for study. Windows opening on a sunken rock garden add an extra dimension to a study room (left). Moveable steel partitions, rather than interior walls, provide flexibility for changing needs. An audio visual room, seminar rooms and a staff and faculty lounge will accommodate the students and teachers for at least 20 years.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT replaces mid-night oil as night falls and students "swot" their books. From the west (right) and east (below) patterns of light and shadow frame a building dedicated to the search for knowledge. At Assumption University, it is a quest whetted by an experiment unique in Christendom: the first Catholic university ever to have in affiliation both a denominational (Anglican) college, Canterbury, and an undenominational college, Essex, (science, engineering, business administration, nursing education). Also in affiliation are University College (Arts), Holy Names College (girls' residence) and Holy Redeemer College (a Redemptorist seminary). In the cosmopolitan mosaic of Windsor's racial complexity, this experiment in human relations is a new beacon of educational endeavour.





de libris

*[Thoughts at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Library
at Assumption University of Windsor, November 6, 1957]*

Three girders jut into the cold, blue sky;
A questioning cranehook swings upon its cable;
Clean white stone the unifying tie
Of differing creeds and fragmentary Babel.

The trellised framework of the arch-hung bridge
Repeats the fragile fretwork of the trees;
White gulls soar in placid pilgrimage
As birds once flew above the Ptolemies
While they amassed the knowledge of their age
Culled from distant Greek academies.

In Alexandria, by the Nile,
On seven hundred thousand rolls
Of papyrus, they gathered there
Aristotle, Archimedes, Plato,
Sophocles and Solon, Sappho,
Theocritus and Socrates.
For all this hoard, Diogenes
Searched vainly for his one wise man.
Did he later wake to see the grace
That, brighter than his lantern, lit the Hebraic face?

Now modern genius adds its haul
And fills to ceiling, wall to wall,
Carnegie and the Taj Mahal,
The Louvre and the Vatican.
And we must build a temple soon
To hold the data of the moon.

These girders, this clean white stone,
Walls and roofbeams yet ungrown,
Will channel fides of questioning men —
Sand that breeds the blood-priced gem.
O, if this shell should gender one of these,
Return, white birds, and wake Diogenes!

*Evelyn J. Broy,
Assumption University of Windsor.*

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD
FOR ALL WHO SEEK
WISDOM UNDERSTANDING AND TRUTH
THIS CORNERSTONE LAID BY
THE HONOURABLE W. J. DENISON
PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF EDUCATION
A.D. 1957